



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

® "The Official Organ of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama."

VOLUME VI, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2018

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Information on the
53rd Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'

NOTABLE ALABAMA MASONS



PRINCE HALL

AN OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE M.W.P.H.G.L.
OF ALABAMA

THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



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*Practice the philosophy of continuous **improvement**. Get a little bit better every single day.*
Brian Tracy

tion this year. If you are unable to make the walk across the bridge, do not be dismayed, just come and fellowship with the hundreds of Brothers and Sisters from throughout the jurisdiction and afar. Let us not forget that this very march led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I look forward to seeing you in Selma, Alabama.

Our regional meetings will begin on March 10, 2018, and will take place on various Saturday's throughout the months of March and April. All Masters, Wardens, and Brothers are to be present at the regional meetings. Every lodge is to be represented. I look forward to the opportunity to fellowship and share ideas with the Brothers.

We will kick off our regional meetings this year with wreath laying ceremonies for two of our Past Grand Masters; the Honorable Malachi Morse and the Honorable Dr. William O. Jones. This will take place at 9:00 a.m. on March 10, 2018, in Tuskegee, Alabama, just prior to our Region Four meeting. It is our duty to pay homage to those who have paved the way for us.

American author, H. Jackson Brown, Jr., once said, "Commit yourself to constant **improvement**. Commit yourself to quality. Be persistent, persistent, persistent...and have a grateful heart!" Brothers, I ask you to commit yourselves to constant **improvements** in your daily lives, as well as, as members of the Craft. Take the working tools, with which you are equipped, and use them to continue to **improve** that rough ashlar so that it will become closer and closer to perfect. By constantly **improving** together, we can continue to build our Grand Lodge to be the best ever known to man. It will not always be easy, but, if committed to **improvement**, we will succeed. While working to **improve** ourselves and our Grand Lodge let us be grateful to God Almighty for blessing us with our abilities. We should also be grateful to those who have helped us along the way. Make sure that you take time out to thank those Brothers who give of their time, talents and finances to help carry out the functions and programs of the lodge.

As always, may God continue to bless each of you and may He bless our beloved Grand Lodge.

Happy New Year! We are truly blessed to help, we will continue to **improve**.

witness the beginning of a new year. It is my prayer that all will have a very blessed and prosperous 2018.

I am very excited about this year and the **improvements** that I envision for our beloved Grand Lodge. We will continue to work to get better in all facets of our honorable organization. We have come a long way, but there is still much work to be done. With your

This year we will continue our participation in the Selma March in commemoration of "Bloody Sunday". The event will take place on Sunday, March 4, 2018, in historic Selma, Alabama. I am soliciting the participation, in this event, of all Brothers and Sisters. Please do your best to attend in mass numbers. We have had great participation each year. Let us **improve** our participa-

Front Cover:

Notable Alabama Masons (see page 7)

Fraternally,

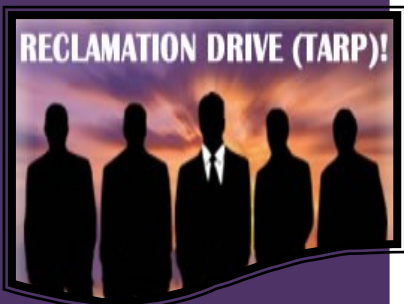
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

"This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee."



Message from the Editor

To all readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama entitled *The Cornerstone Message*, Greetings:

As this edition closes out the year, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Grand Lodge and all subordinate lodges for a very successful 2017. Your good works for 2017 have been displayed for all to see through the use of *The Cornerstone Message*. I hope that 2017 left you with fond memories, satisfaction of deeds well done and success in all your endeavors.

As we transition into a new

year, I wish good health and happiness for you, your family and friends. If you need a place to start in 2018, a review of your Masonic Obligations and a personal commitment to your Masonic family might be a great place.

A new year should bring a renewal of enthusiasm within our lodges. Many of us make personal resolutions for the New Year; stop smoking or get in shape for example. Perhaps it is an opportunity for us to make resolutions to help our lodges grow and prosper. An essential obligation we have as Masons is to support our lodges. How do we do that? One way is to show up to the meetings.

Reach out to older members who can't drive or haven't

been to lodge in a while. Offer to give them a ride to lodge. Second, give brothers a reason to come to the lodge. Schedule fun programs and activities. A little preparation will go a long way. Having fun is contagious. When the word gets out, you will find that the seats will magically be filled.

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show all readers of this newsletter what your lodges are doing in 2018 to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- PM Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times, our Most Worshipful Grand Master has devised a plan named TARP— Traveling Again Reclamation Program. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

Members suspended before June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$105.00 Total

Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$105.00 Total

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2018.

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Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden
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Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., 33°, KYGCH, Grand Master

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December 9, 2017

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

C: Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Annie J. Pringle, Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Calvin Miller, II
Greetings:

For the fifth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on **Sunday, March 4, 2018**, to participate in the 53rd anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore, I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. **All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie.**

It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Last year we had hundreds of brothers and sisters to attend. Let us do our best to increase our numbers this year. Please consider arranging bus trips to Selma. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master





53rd Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March *'Bloody Sunday'*

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama

**Invites all Brothers and Sisters of the
Jurisdiction to be a part of this
Historic re-enactment of our State's
History in the struggle for equality...**

March 4, 2018

**National Participation is Expected
We will gather at 119 Washington Street
Selma, Alabama
at 11:00 a.m.**

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of ALABAMA

2018 REGIONAL MEETINGS

DATE	REGION	CITY
MARCH 10, 2018	REGION 4	TUSKEGEE
MARCH 24, 2018	REGION 5	TALLADEGA
MARCH 31, 2018	REGION 3	NEWVILLE
APRIL 7, 2018	REGION 2	YORK
APRIL 21, 2018	REGION 6	LEIGHTON
APRIL 28, 2018	REGION 1	PINE HILL

REGION 1 – DISTRICTS 1, 3 and 4

REGION 2 – DISTRICTS 2 and 12

REGION 3 – DISTRICTS 5 and 6

REGION 4 – DISTRICTS 7, 8 and 10

REGION 5 – DISTRICTS 13, 14 and 15

REGION 6 – DISTRICT 17

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama, Inc.



BY PURCHASING YOUR

ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

TODAY!!!

(We have met and exceeded our required 250 COMMITMENTS)

Tags are now being issued...

For More Information Visit :

<http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/princehallgrandlodge.cfm>

*(You may purchase the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime,
You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)*

NOTABLE ALABAMA MASONS

Ralph Abernathy - Civil Rights Activist

William Hooper Councill - First President of Alabama A. & M. University

Anthony Daniels - First Black and Youngest House Minority Leader in the Alabama State Legislature

A.G. Gaston - Multi-Millionaire Businessman and Civil Rights Supporter

William C. Handy - Composer and Blues Musician

Jeremiah Haralson - U.S. Representative (1875-1877)

Jimmie Lee Jackson - Slain Civil Rights Activist

Lionel Richie - Grammy Award Winning Singer, Songwriter, and Record Producer

Arthur Shores - Civil Rights Attorney “Alabama’s Drum Major for Justice”

Ruben Studdard - Grammy Nominee Singer, American Idol Winner

H. Councill Trenholm - President of Alabama State University (1925-1960)

Benjamin S. Turner - U.S. Representative (1871-1873)

Dennis L. Via - Four Star U.S. Army General (Retired)

NOTABLE ALABAMA MASONS

Y	I	H	X	Q	Y	R	C	B	R	B	Z	D	S	D	M	P	M	W	P	X
N	K	A	Y	R	E	U	E	S	A	Z	F	G	L	I	L	T	N	K	N	T
O	E	S	K	R	A	B	I	A	L	L	B	Q	F	A	O	A	O	M	S	C
S	Z	Y	V	D	N	E	H	M	P	C	W	S	S	Q	H	Z	S	J	V	W
L	N	D	G	B	T	N	C	O	H	Q	J	V	E	Y	N	W	K	Q	B	U
A	V	N	U	T	H	S	I	H	A	B	C	F	R	D	E	I	C	Q	I	D
R	B	A	B	X	O	T	R	T	B	N	N	B	O	E	R	R	A	M	M	B
A	E	H	H	A	N	U	L	B	E	I	O	E	H	N	T	R	J	G	Q	W
H	G	C	I	G	Y	D	E	K	R	Y	X	N	S	N	L	G	E	J	P	Q
H	Y	M	Z	G	D	D	N	C	N	M	X	J	R	I	L	Y	E	O	B	B
A	N	A	I	A	A	A	O	I	A	G	V	A	U	S	I	J	L	H	E	D
I	C	I	O	S	N	R	I	R	T	G	Z	M	H	L	C	T	E	I	L	H
M	V	L	F	T	I	D	L	E	H	P	X	I	T	V	N	E	I	Z	N	Q
E	D	L	G	O	E	N	H	D	Y	P	I	N	R	I	U	F	M	B	Q	W
R	G	I	B	N	L	J	J	O	Z	P	B	S	A	A	O	P	M	B	V	D
E	V	W	K	E	S	Q	J	R	P	Y	P	T	T	Z	C	L	I	F	E	S
J	J	D	D	T	P	X	Y	E	E	P	J	U	U	O	H	E	J	B	H	E
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	H	O	O	P	E	R	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	L
T	B	X	G	A	G	Z	H	S	V	Y	P	N	F	V	E	M	G	K	J	P
T	T	D	Q	U	B	X	B	W	I	Z	Y	E	Z	Y	C	O	P	Y	K	I
X	L	P	Y	S	R	F	R	C	F	H	K	R	X	N	C	O	M	F	S	V

A G Gaston

Anthony Daniels

Arthur Shores

Benjamin S Turner

Dennis L Via

H Councill Trenholm

Jeremiah Haralson

Jimmie Lee Jackson

Lionel Richie

Ralph Abernathy

Roderick B Thomas

Ruben Studdard

William C Handy

William Hooper Councill

Update on Temple Renovation



The Celebrated Colored Masonic Temple Building with Proposed Parking Deck Addition

LEGENDARY PRESENCE FASHIONED ONLY BY A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY, SERVICE & CHARITY

◆ Now Accepting New Occupancy Pre-Leasing ◆



SAMPLE TYPICAL NEW FLOOR PLAN

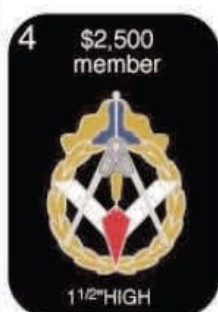
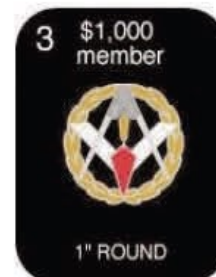
- ◆ Large enough to accommodate the needs for 10 or more staffers
- ◆ Flexible office arrangements available to satisfy the small professional entrepreneur
- ◆ All new infrastructure—Plumbing; Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning; Lighting; Power; Communications; Wi-Fi connections; Video teleconferencing
- ◆ Access to shared conference rooms
- ◆ Centralized Downtown Location
- ◆ Professional Office environment having competitive square foot costs
- ◆ Historical setting updated with current technologies
- ◆ ADA— Compliant
- ◆ Non-Profit Organizations invited
- ◆ We will work with you to customize to your organization's specifications
- ◆ Convenient location to Local, State & Federal Court Houses

Support the Temple Renovation

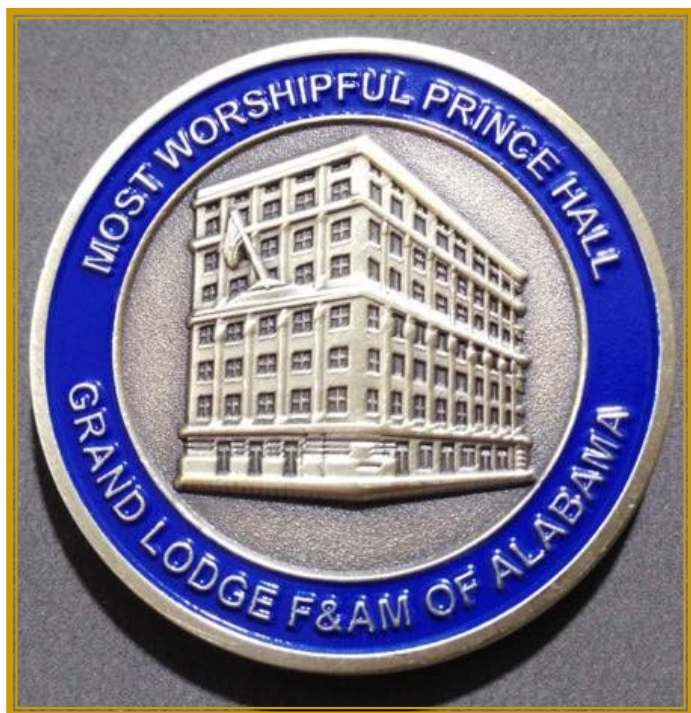
Most

Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge
of Alabama Temple
Renovation Lapel
Pins are still
available for new
and existing
members upon
receipt of donation
(s). Collect up to
each level.

Display your
support
for the temple
renovation!



Reserve Your Place in History



Front



Back

The Master's Closet recently unveiled the Temple Renovation 2016 Challenge Coin Project. The project introduced a challenge coin to the community with a depiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall F&AM Grand Lodge of Alabama with a full color Masonic and Order of the Eastern Star Emblem. Proceeds from the sales of the coins will go to help renovate the Grand Lodge to its original form of the early 1900's.

Go to: www.TheMastersClosetGifts.com

These Temple Renovation coins are limited editions; Get Yours Today!

From Whence We've Come...

In Their Own Words – PART II

In preparation to write the official history of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, I've prepared a series of addresses made by our early Grand Masters. As such, when we discuss our early leadership, in hindsight, it would remain more appropriate to actually catch a glimpse of what they were thinking, experiencing and actually saying. Therefore, I am releasing an early glimpse of another work that will be published within the next year, entitled, *In Their Own Words: The Writings of the Grand Master of Alabama*.

What our readers should note is that, in context, there were three (3) African American Grand Lodges in Alabama:

1. Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama – Formed in 1870 – Independent, which was a descendent of African Lodge No. 459;
2. Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient York Masons of Alabama – Formed in 1874 – Formed under the National Compact; and
3. Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient York Masons of Alabama – Formed in 1874 – Formed under the National Compact; and

Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama – Formed in 1878 as a consolidation with (or absorption of the) Compact Grand Lodge. – Independent – which would later change its name to what is now called the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama, which continues as a descendent of African Lodge No. 459.

I present to you Alabama's First Grand Master since its initial formation in 1870, the Honorable...

FRANKLIN D. TAYLOR

Past Grand Master

1870-71, 1872-74



The writer has identified select addresses made by Grand Master Taylor and has chosen to transcribe them verbatim without corrections. While Grand Master Taylor's addresses are in entirety they reflect an understanding of the times and thoughts of the leader of the Craft during those times.

Saturday, June 21, 1873

Brethren of the Fraternity:

We are permitted again to assemble for the fourth time in the capacity of a Grand Lodge, and myself, your humble servant, acting as Grand Master – which position I have, to the best of my ability, filled to the interest of the Craft – but with what amount of satisfaction I am unable to say; however, I hope the Craft will overlook my shortcomings and take the will for the deed.

Since we last assembled, many of our kind friends and beloved associates have fallen by the way, yet we should return our heartfelt thanks for the many blessings which we have enjoyed since we last met.

Let us be stimulated to press forward in the path of duty, not turning to the right nor to the left, but striving ever to keep in the view those true masonic virtues “brotherly love, relief and truth.” Let our charity extend to all created beings upon the face of the habitable globe; then can it be said that we are masons indeed; then will the time come when vice, malice and hatred will pass away as a vapor before the breeze.

I regret to announce to you that dire necessity has compelled me to suspend the St. John's Lodge, No. 2, after every effort had been exhausted to save such action; that body, in direct violation of masonic law, holding a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Missouri Compact, while, working under the Grand Lodge of this State by warrant. After their suspension, they were visited by one R.W. Lawton, claiming to the Grand Master of Missouri, but what has since become of him or them, I am unable to say. I would further state that the jewels, moneys and implements of St. John's Lodge have never been secured, on account of the individual dishonesty of its Master.

You will pardon your humble servant for alluding to the Nation Compact, (so called,) which is crumbling to dust – and seeing the fast decaying, self-constituted useless innovation, I resolved not to let it die without giving it a passing notice, as it is my opinion, we will not long be troubled with that illegal body, which took its rise in 1847. Some of its most zealous supporters are now counseling their votaries to cease adhering to the grand humbug and establish Grand Lodge in keeping with out Ancient Rules and Regulations. We will then be united into one common band of friends and brethren.

My correspondence has been very interesting, though not very large, among which, are the following Lodges, viz: Arkansas, Michigan, and Ontario; the latter was formed October 22d, 1872, and the Grand Officers installed by M.W.G. Master W.T. Boyd, of Ohio. I respectfully recommend that this Grand Lodge pass suitable resolutions of welcome to them. I have appointed the proper representatives near those Grand Bodies, while they have made their appointments near this.

¹ Proceedings of the Third Annual Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Alabama, June 21, 1873, p. 3 – 4.

I have had correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, California, District of Columbia and the Grand Orient of France.

This year, I am proud to say, has been fraught with good for the fraternity; the genuine principles of Masonry are being diffused, while innovations of whatever nature, are fast decaying – though the whites maintain the stubborn resistance towards acknowledging the colored Free Masons. My brethren, let us rejoice, notwithstanding that the time is not far distant, when every Mason of whatever shade or complexion will united in the Grand design of communicating happiness. Much has been said by our white brethren concerning our affiliation with the Grand Orient of France, which is established upon the true principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, which regards no man or set of men on account of nationality, but looks upon the institution (as founded by our forefathers, and handed down to us by tradition – not as a nation institution, if it had been, it would have long since lost its virtue,) but as an universal order, recognizing all men who would be the suppressors of vice and the inculcators of virtue.

I have visited all the Lodges in this jurisdiction, and find them all in a healthy condition, their numbers have been greatly augmented, with care has the timber been selected.

I regret to announce that our outer door has been alarmed during this masonic year by the grim monster death, and removed from our midst our dear and beloved brethren R.F. Butler and R.W. Simon Bartlett, Grand S.D., both of Olive Branch, Lodge, No. 1; and we find that our sister Grand Lodges has suffered to great extent. Tennessee has lost one of her brightest lights in the demise of Bro. Oliver Thompson, of Rock City Lodge, Nashville. Permit me to call your attention to the death of Bro. Nelson Cook, of Olive Branch Lodge, San Francisco, California – he was a devoted Christian. I respectfully recommend that a suitable place in these proceedings be inscribed to their memory. Their walk in life was an assurance that they dwell in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are forever at rest. Let us do our duty as Masons, though others fail, then can we enjoy the happy reflection consequent upon a well spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality.

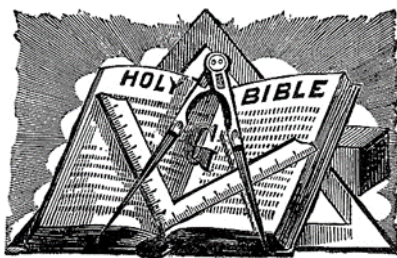
*This world's to them a shadow,
They have not worked in vain,
They've climbed the top of Jacob's Ladder,
They therefore heaven hath gamed.*

*To dwell forever with the just,
In peaceful, joyful love,
Where all good Masons hope to rest,
In the Grand Lodge above.*

I respectfully recommend the repeal of Article IX, Sec. 3 –all therein contained, empowering the Grand Lodge to levey a tax of Two Dollars for Diplomas, and One Dollar be inserted in lieu thereof – also, Sec. 5 of Article X, so that the charge may not exceed Forty Dollars, -- Ministers of the Gospel excepted – by so doing, it would in my opinion, conduce to the interest of the Craft, and would disseminate the Order throughout the interior of the State.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN D. TAYLOR, Grand Master.



Monday, June 22, 1874

Dear Brethren:

One more year has rolled around, and we are thus blessed, being permitted to assemble in the capacity of Masons, to return thanks for the manifold blessings we have enjoyed during this masonic year. While we do assemble in accordance with ancient usage upon this checkered floor, let our voices ascend to heaven with praises and thanksgiving, laying our choicest gifts at the altar of Him who doeth all things well.

Let us, dear brethren, be of one mind, working for the upbuilding[sic] of the whole human family, wherever dispersed around the globe. May we conduct our present session with that magnanimity that it may have been well said: “that he who can best work best agree.” It is known by all intelligent Masons that upon the superstructure the whole world owes its grace and beauty.

While we believe that before the end of time it will be the instrument used – as it is designed –to bring into the fields of our land many who otherwise would be inevitably lost.

No creed or condition should make us swerve rom our duty or violate our sacred vows, we being all of one common parent, knowing no distinction but that of goodness. My brethren, too much vigilance cannot be exercised over the ballot box that the glory of our time honored institution may perfect its desired work. It is to be regretted that the utility of the institution is not as comprehensive with a majority of its members as it should be. I therefore most respectfully recommend that the craft apply more of its study to masonic jurisprudence, as it is very essential that we should know the business in which we are engaged, that the world may be impressed with its good effects.

A comprehensive knowledge of the masonic arts is expected, not only in this jurisdiction, but equally so in others whose interests are identical with ours, using all of the implements that were used by our most ancient Grand Masters, that the craft may be able to pursue their labor in erecting the temple that so much light has emanated from, spreading its illuminating rays all over the terrestrial globe and disseminating its light and knowledge wherever Christians have taken up their abode.

Even the late Dr. Livingstone, near the burning sands of the Sahara, was made to feel the wholesome effects wrought through the craft, otherwise they would have remained at a perpetual distance groveling in the dark abyss of benighted ignorance. Even there he was received with cheerful hearts and open hands.

Let us, then, be stimulated with the hope that after the closing of our earthly Grand Lodge, we may be received in that Grand Lodge above, where all good Masons hope to arrive by the end of that theological ladder which Jacob, the patriarch, saw extending from earth to heaven, and were inscribed thereon Faith, Hope and Charity.

We must have Faith in God, Hope in Immortality, and Charity of all Mankind; let him be upon the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel – he is our brother.

In my last year's report, I admitted that I could not let the Compact die without giving it a passing notice, as there were no coherent[sic] to it. The Lodges of Ontario, C.W., of the States of Michigan, Massachusetts and Missouri having severed themselves from the grand innovation, I respectfully recommend that suitable Resolutions be passed welcoming the Grand Lodges of the States above named.

Brethren, it requires no cogent arguments to prove that it is almost a thing of the past. Wherever the innovation is adhered to its adherents are offering resolutions tending to the severance of their ties from the useless humbug, which took its rise in 1847 pushed forward by designing men.

The independence of the Grand Lodge of Missouri is due to the Rev. Moses Dickson, R.W.P.G.M., and that of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to Bro. A.W.A. De Leon, who is indefatigable [sic] in the good work of breaking down all innovations from whatever source they may come. These noble acts could have emanated only from men of clear heads and expansive hearts; which acts should be revered by all lovers of the institution. Long may they live to defend the right.

My correspondence during this year has not been as extensive as that of last year, which is easily accounted for: The Grand Lodge at her last session having established a Committee on Foreign Communications, which left it optional with me as to correspondence. We have every reason to be hopeful that before the centennial anniversary of American independence every vestige of innovations will have disappeared.

² Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, for the Years 1874 and 1875, June 22, 1874, p. 4-6.

During the recess of the Grand Lodge I appointed the following officers as my deputies: William H. Council [sic], for the Northern District of the State, and Rev. G.W. Bryant, for the Southern District of the State.

The accessions to our ranks have been encouraging in the extreme; much care having been observed in selecting the timber.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED DURING RECESS

R.W. Moses Dickson, near the Grand Lodge of Missouri; R.W.P.G.M. W.T. Boyd, Ohio; W.C.H. Curtis, of New York; Nelson McGavock, of Tennessee; John G. Britton, Of Indiana; J.W. Conna, of Connecticut.

I have visited all of the Lodges under this jurisdiction, and am proud to say that work in all of them is uniform and encouraging in the extreme.

I granted a dispensation to a certain number of Master Masons at Greenville, Ala., empowering them to assemble and work as a Lodge until the session of the Grand Lodge; empowering them to initiate, pass and raise.

Also a dispensation to Hiram Lodge, No. 3. I most respectfully recommend the passage of an act allowing Lodges in the interior of the state to confer the degrees for \$25. pp.

DEATH

I am pained to announce to this assembly the death of R.W. Deputy Grand Master L.J. Williams, on the 15th of October, 1874, in the city of Montgomery, 5874. The grim monster has been amongst us and taken from our midst one who was honored and respected by all who was associated with him, as an honest upright citizen, a loving and devoted husband, a kind and indulgent father. His remains were conveyed to their last resting place by the members of King Solomon's Lodge, accompanied by the R.W.D.D.G. Master G.W. Bryant, who officiated as Chaplain, J.H. Bryant as Marshal and myself acting as Master.

Much of my time has been spent out of the State during the masonic year, circumstances over which I had no control compelling my absence.

Having served the craft to the best of my ability, I am most respectfully,

Yours, Fraternally,

FRANKLIN D. TAYLOR, G.M.

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*Contributor — RW L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Lodge Historian*

Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

Greetings brothers. I am briefly writing today about two subjects that are quite important. The first is universal precautions. The country is experiencing an epidemic with the current flu virus. Unfortunately, this virus has killed multiple people in the United States. Please protect yourself and your family as well as others by washing your hands, using hand sanitizer and facial masks if necessary. Cover your cough by using a tissue and disposing of it properly in a waste container. If you cough in your hand, please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. Avoid large crowds if you feel sick, please do not try to work as this can expose your colleagues. There are many of you that are very hard working and have good work ethics but you must use some “work sense” by realizing the risk, if you are exhibiting flu like symptoms, may come at too great of an expense to you and your colleagues. If you think you are experiencing flu like symptoms that may consist of multiple symptoms including fevers, stuffiness, body aches, chills, and sore throat, just to name some of the symptoms, please seek out medical treatment. The flu vaccine still remains the best defense against the flu virus. It typically takes about two weeks for the vaccine to promote resistance against the flu virus. Therefore, please obtain the flu vaccination in a timely manner as this can prevent you from obtaining the vaccine. Talk to your physician about the timely administration of the flu vaccine.

My second topic is concerning chest pain. Chest pain can be a tricky subject depending on the individual experiencing the symptoms of chest pain. I was talking to a friend recently that informed me that he had an episode of chest pain that lasted for a couple of days. He stated that he “did the old folks remedy and drank a warm glass of water with baking soda.” Unfortunately, this remedy did not resolve his symptoms. It was not until several days later that he went to his physician and had some stents placed for blocked arteries. I do not want to cause a panic as not all chest pain is related to cardiac problems. I do; however, want to emphasize that this person had known cardiac disease and I put him in a different category. I was greatly disappointed as I have had talks with patients like him who have taken the same approach as he has done in the past. My message, once again, is that if you have a health issue that is documented, please seek out medical attention if you should experience similar symptoms. I grew up in Mississippi and am well aware of the multiple home remedies that kept us out of the hospital at that time. I wish that I could even replicate some of those old home remedies. If you have a documented health issue, please follow up with your physician for recurrence of symptoms.

Different people can present, in different ways, with the same health complaint. We as health professionals have heard and seen the many different presentations for the same health complaint. Get to know your body. Some people may think that statement is an oxymoron as they will state it is my body and I know my body. You would be surprised at the number of people that do not know, for example, that they had a mole in a certain location of their body until they were told. Monitor your body and love your body. A simple body function is usually not fully appreciated until that body function is somehow impeded.

As men, we need to become more aggressive with our healthcare. I joke with my patients that women outlive us because they consider their body a precious commodity. It is time for men to be more involved with their individual healthcare. There are a lot of men that too often do not come to the doctor for a routine check-up unless a family member schedules the appointment for them. There are men that do take their health seriously and stay on top of their regularly scheduled doctors appointments. I am not talking about these men. We as men need to take the approach; *#time to schedule*.

I would like to leave you with a little food for thought. I had a professor that educated me to the fact that you will never learn everything there is to know in medicine. He also stated that if I ever did learn everything there is to know in medicine then I needed to retire. I often tell people that, no matter who you are, this is the approach we need to take in life, because you will never know everything there is to know in life. Stay humble brothers. God bless.

Sincerely,

*Contributor – RW Dr. Belfondia Pou
Grand Medical Registrar*

Achievements

Mr. Damian J. Smith

To the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Alabama, Worshipful Master Joseph Hogan and Hopewell Lodge No. 198:

I, Damian J. Smith, a recipient of a Grand Lodge Scholarship, am writing to thank you and the Lodge for playing an important part in my education.

On December 8, 2017, I graduated from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. My years at A&M were great. I joined many organizations on campus such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity, Inc., A&M Gospel Choir, and the A&M NAACP chapter. Joining these various organizations have prepared me to become the great leader I am today.

My goal when I entered college was to graduate with a full time job offer when I graduate. I am elated to say that I have successfully reached that goal. In June 2018, I will be continuing my education at Johns Hopkins University pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Education with a Concentration in Educational Studies/Secondary - Urban Teachers in Baltimore, Maryland. I will also be teaching high school mathematics in Washington D.C. through the Urban Teachers Program.

Matriculating to college was a big milestone for me and the Masonic Lodge helped to make the transition easier. Again, thank you and I hope the Lodge continues to help other young students pursue their education.

Respectfully,

Damian J. Smith



In The Spotlight

Each quarter the MWPHGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

Grand Junior Deacon R.W. Carlton Jones

Brother Carlton Jones thrives on family and leaving a legacy for his three sons, Corey, Clayton and Clark. He is a family man and believes that every man should lead by example to be a positive example for his family. Bro. Jones graduated from M.D. Collins High School in College Park, Georgia in 1980. He immediately enlisted in the United States Navy just as his dad and granddad had done before him. So, it was no surprise for all three of his sons to enlist in the Navy upon graduation from high school. Bro. Jones met his wife of 29 years in the Navy, Kathleen Jones. He is an alumnus of Savannah State University, 1993, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Bro. Jones graduated Magna Cum Laude and was cited for several leadership awards while attending SSU. Later on, Bro. Jones attended Troy University and received his Master's degree in Education in 2003. He and his wife are proud members of the American Legion. Bro. Carlton Jones' roots come from Tuskegee, Alabama where his mom was born and raised. His dad was born and raised in a town not far away, Opelika, Alabama. Bro. Jones path to masonry began at an early age.



As a child, Bro. Jones was always intrigued with the masons. He would watch them perform masonic rites at the funerals of his granddad and uncles, who were masons. His father, who was a Prince Hall mason, took Bro. Jones with him as he traveled the country. His father was a long-distance truck driver and took the opportunity to mentor to his son at every chance he got. According to Bro. Jones he never fully discussed what masonry was but always told him it was a good organization to be a part of. Bro. Jones felt a void in his life and knew he had to find out what that void was. Little did he know that he was surrounded by the answer his entire life. As he became older, Bro. Jones would talk to his great uncle at length on his many visits to Gary, Indiana. His great uncle left an impression on Bro. Jones in a huge way. Booker T. Jones, who passed last year at the age of 90, was heavily involved in masonry until the day he died. As Bro. Jones began to wind down his naval career, he got to spend more time with his ailing great uncle. It was during this time that Bro. Jones asked his uncle about masonry and wanted to know about his journey in masonry. It was easy for any young man to be intrigued listening to Booker T. Jones. He was a man deep in moral values and always seemed to have a keen sense of knowledge on any subject that was broached. The phrase "hard work pays off" could have easily been coined by his great-uncle. Bro. Jones took pride in knowing that his great uncle rose to the highest level in masonry, 33rd degree and Grand Master of the MWPHGL of Indiana.

Bro. Jones path to masonry was laid out before him. After retiring from the Navy after 21 years of distinguished service, Bro. Jones decided to teach and accepted a job in the Phenix City School system as the Sr. Naval Science Instructor. The position called for a senior military officer to come in and lead the JROTC program. Bro. Jones had worked his way from the bottom of the enlisted ranks, E-1 to become a Naval Officer, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Bro. Jones was determined to be there for his family and retiring to become a teacher and coach was one of the best decisions he could have made. Bro. Jones immediately made an impact in the JROTC program at Central High School. His unit was awarded eleven consecutive Distinguished Unit Awards, the highest award given to a NJROTC unit. He was personally responsible for assisting more than 30 high school JROTC students with earning full ROTC college scholarships and appointments to West Point and the Naval Academy. Bro. Jones was asked to coach the junior high basketball team and later the 9th grade and JV basketball teams. He was also assigned as assistant varsity basketball coach for Central and in 2014, he filled in as the varsity head coach when the coach took ill and led the team to a big playoff state tournament win. Coaching has always been a passion for Bro. Jones. Having three boys, and coaching all three of them in football, baseball, and basketball was special.

Bro. Carlton Jones was raised as a mason in Phoenix Lodge No. 428 in Phenix City, Alabama. He didn't just want to be a member, he wanted to embrace masonry and sought out to seek more light about the craft. Bro. Jones served as Tyler of the lodge, Steward, Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Treasurer, Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master. Things didn't always go as well as he would have liked in his early years as a mason. Bro. Jones remembers, meeting in the basement of a church for many years, some meeting nights being cold and damp, but the brothers still came every meeting night to practice their craft. From the church, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 moved in to South Griffin Lodge building and began holding its meetings and conducting lodge business. After Bro. Jones became WM he wanted to continue the efforts of the leadership that came before him by building membership and ensuring each member had a significant role in the lodge, every member was important. He began to instill the principles of what was taught to him from his dad, granddad and great-uncle, "Hard work will pay Off". Immediately, the lodge set out to be more visible in the community and to mentor the youth. Committees were set up to ensure every brother could be a part of the lodge success. Bro. Jones began to see the lodge members' enthusiasm as they began giving back to the community and learning more about being a brother mason. Bro. Jones provided quarterly and yearly goals for the lodge and every lodge brother bought in to the goals of the lodge. Living by the tenets of freemasonry, "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth", the lodge was on its way to bigger and better accolades.

Bro. Jones quickly immersed himself in the district and grand lodge by making himself available and learning all there is to know about our MWPHGL of Alabama. Past District Deputy Morris Toolles, Jr. presented an opportunity for Phoenix Lodge No. 428 to move into its own lodge building. Oswichee Lodge 781 was merged with Phoenix Lodge No. 428 due to lack of active brothers on roll with Oswichee. The lodge building needed a lot of work, but Bro. Jones and the brothers did not hesitate to take on that challenge. As a result, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 quickly moved in and began an extensive restoration project of cleaning, building and restoring the lodge back to a masonic lodge. The brothers took pride in their efforts and membership began to grow. Old members of Oswichee Lodge re-instated under the TARP program, other brothers demitted from their former lodge to join 428. Immediately, Bro. Jones began to promise the brothers that if they continue to work hard in our lodge, continue to do what they have always done, serving the community and giving back scholarships to our youth, support the district and grand lodge, we could win the distinguished "Lodge of the Year" award at the grand session. Bro. Jones continued to lead by example, he always led his lodge in every community service event, fundraiser event and reaching out to inactive brothers and bringing them back to the fold. After his first year in the East, Bro. Jones was recognized as Worshipful Master of the Year for District 7. After his second year in the east, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 was awarded 2nd Place for Lodge of the Year in the city category. Bro. Jones took notice of RW Morris Toolles and RW George Echols, both Grand Officers in District 7. Both who have led by example and are well respected in the Grand Lodge. RW Morris Toolles and RW George Echols believed in Bro. Jones and his leadership they continued to support him and the efforts of Phoenix Lodge No. 428. Bro. Jones was asked by RW Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy of District 7, if he

would be his Assistant District Deputy for District 7. Bro. Jones gladly accepted and began to work side by side with District Deputy Chambliss. After Bro. Jones' third year in the East, he made good on the promise to his lodge, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 was awarded 1st place "Lodge of the Year" in the city category at the 147th Annual Communication in Mobile, Alabama. At their first meeting after the grand session, Bro. Jones proclaimed, "With God All things are Possible!" Bro. Jones recently retired from the Phenix City Schools after serving 16 years. He plans to continue to work in the community giving back and serving wherever needed. Bro. Jones was recently appointed by Grand Master Hawkins as Grand Junior Deacon. He is the first MWP HGL of Alabama Grand Officer from Russell County, Alabama. Not only is Bro. Jones a proud member of his blue house, he is also an active member of the Russell County York Rite PHA, Jacob Harrison Consistory and Al Sharif Temple No. 252. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Columbus Alumni Chapter. Bro. Jones has certainly left a legacy behind and would love to see all three of his sons follow his paths in masonry and fraternity. In 2015, one of Bro. Jones proudest moments came when he got the opportunity to raise his oldest son, Bro. Corey Jones to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Corey Jones is currently stationed in Greece but is still active in his blue lodge and York Rite masonry.

Through all of the success he has experienced, Bro. Jones remains humble and knows that to get anywhere in life, you must have a strong foundation in God. Keeping God first and never losing sight of what your purpose is in life is the key, according to Bro. Jones. Having a strong support group of family and friends and serving others will continue to keep Bro. Jones going in the right direction.



UNTO THE LEAST

*The beggar's hand stretched forth in silent plea:
I turned away, nor did I care to see;
So busy was I with my own affairs,
I gave no thought to other people's cares.
That night I dreamed a vision of the Cross,
And of the Christ whose death was mankind's loss;
His dying lips moved-plainly could I see
"Who gives unto the least, gives unto Me."
Next day I hurried to the public square;
The ragged beggar still stood mutely there.
I gave him coin as quickly by I trod,
Then, turning, recognized the face of God.*

BY ARTHUR R. HERRMANN

REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Cyrene Lodge No. 844 Supports Its Community

During the 2017 high school football season, the brothers of Cyrene Lodge No. 844 prepared, and served the R.C. Hatch High School Varsity Football Team their pre-game meals. This was an important undertaking for the brothers of Cyrene Lodge No. 844 to show the young men that the lodge supported them. The team and coaching staff thanked the brothers for their continued support.

The Brothers of Cyrene Lodge No. 844 also participated in a Mental Health Awareness and Advocacy program with the Cahaba Center for Mental Health at R.C. Hatch High School. Cahaba Center for Mental Health offers intensive outpatient treatment (IOT) and general outpatient services. Outpatient treatment focuses on problem solution, symptom resolution or reduction and stabilization, is highly variable, and depends upon the clients presenting symptoms. The program was a success as the students were very receptive to the information and engaged the presenters with very interesting questions.



(Top Right): Brothers Timothy Shepherd, Issac Hood and Walter Benjamin, serving the players their meals.

(Bottom Right): Students participating in the program while brother Walter Benjamin Jr, and brother Lee Minor hand out door prize tickets.

(Bottom Left): Pictured above is Worshipful Master Adrian Lewis speaking to the kids on the issue of mental health and the dangers of synthetic marijuana.

Contributor – Bro. Adrian Lewis (No. 844)

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Shows Charity in the Community

On October 22, 2017, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 participated in breast cancer awareness. The lodge put together support bags for 3 breast cancer survivors in the Montgomery area. They held a special program to honor the brave women who survived breast cancer to let them know that the lodge was behind them and support them 100 percent. The lodge purchased all pink gifts in honor of breast cancer month and presented the survivors with breast cancer blankets, coffee mugs, jewelry, scarfs, socks, and hats. Hamilton Lodge No. 365 wanted to let the survivors know that the Prince Hall Masons were here to support all of those affected by breast cancer.



On December 10th, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 was presented a proclamation from the Governor of The State of Alabama, the Honorable Kay Ivey. She presented the lodge the proclamation for their community service, their work in the Montgomery Public school system, and their nursing home visits. The lodge visited every nursing home in the city of Montgomery and they are not stopping anytime soon. District Deputy Parks stated that he was excited for Hamilton Lodge No. 365 and congratulated them on their achievements.



On December 18th, Hamilton Lodge paid a visit and delivered fruit baskets to the widows, grandmother's, mothers, and wives of their beloved past Masonic brothers and current brothers in their district. They visited Sister Belser, who is the mother of WM Loveless Belser. They also visited the widow of the late Grand District Deputy Benjamin Beasley. They also visited Sister Brundige who is the wife of Josephus Brundige, and lastly they visited Lobeila Smith, who is the grandmother of Bro. Brian Smith. They remembered that they took an oath to take care of their brothers' widows and family members once they die. Additionally, they just wanted to show them that Hamilton Lodge has not forgotten about them.



Also on December 18th, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 surprised the kids at Baptist East Hospital with Christmas gifts for those who were unable to leave the hospital. The lodge donated coloring books, crayons, bubbles, and stuffed animals. Members of the lodge even dressed up as Santa Claus and his helpers. They had an awesome time while making the day for all of the kids.



On December 22nd, members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 helped with a special project at Chisolm Elementary School in Montgomery, Alabama. The lodge helped paint the girls and boys bathroom. The brothers had a great time while painting as it allowed the brothers to bond during this event.



Contributor— Bro. Brian Smith (No. 365)

Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 Participates with Town Creek District Baptist Association

On October 29, 2017, the brothers of Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 in a combined effort with Mt. Nebo Chapter No. 710, OES and several churches in the Town Creek District Baptist Association sponsored the All Saints Eve Festival. This program was an alternative to trick or treating with children and parents in a safe and Christian environment. The program consisted of musical chairs, hitting the piñata, throwing the rings and bible trivia. The program was well attended with fun for the entire family. During the event, time was taken out to pray and recognize the families and friends affected by hurricanes Irma and Harvey. The program was well attended with fun for the entire family.

The Town Creek District Baptist Association held a hurricane relief fund to donate to people affected by the storms. Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 presented a monetary gift to support the relief effort. May God bless each and every family affected by the disasters.



(Top Right) Participants in the All Saints Eve Festival

(Bottom Right) Monetary gift presented by Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 to the Town Creek Baptist Association

Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 Participates in Macon County Food Drive

On November 30, 2017, Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 along with Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church and other Masonic organizations in Tuskegee, AL, hosted a food drive for citizens in Macon County. This food drive helped to supply citizens with food for the holiday season. A call went out for help in bagging and passing out the food and brothers of several Masonic organizations came out to aid and support this worthy cause. Several thousand pounds of fruits and vegetables and snacks were given to families in need of food, especially during the holiday season when many families struggle. The food was provided by the food bank of Alabama from Montgomery, AL. The brothers that participated really enjoyed helping the church and the citizens that received the food.



Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 prepping food bags for distribution

Contributor – Brother Dominguez C. Hurry (No. 511)

Milton W. Howze No. 408

Giving in the Community

On Friday, November 24, the Brothers of Milton W. Howze No. 408 volunteered with KaBoom! to give back by building a new playground. KaBoom! is the national non-profit dedicated to ensuring that all kids get a childhood filled with balanced and active play. The playground is located at Tuskegee Public School. Throughout the holiday season, Lodge No. 408 held a toy drive to help provide a Christmas for local youth in need.

On Saturday, December 23, Milton W. Howze wrapped up our Big Giveaway Fundraiser. The day was full of fellowship and concluded with the giveaway of a new 2018 Chevrolet Malibu.

(Top Right): Brothers of Lodge No. 408 with Grand Prize winner Pat Dumas
(Bottom Right): Brothers of Lodge No. 408 with local family donating to toy drive

Contributor – Bro. Steve Blackmon (No. 408)



Phoenix Lodge No. 428

in the Season of Lifting Spirits

Holiday season can be particularly lonely for residents in nursing homes, particularly for those that will get no visitors, cards or gifts. Several years ago, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 started a tradition of visiting local nursing homes in the city. Instead of meeting for its regular lodge meeting, brothers come together and meet at two local nursing homes; Canterbury Nursing Home and Parkwood Nursing Home. On Tuesday, December 19, members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 took time to visit the residents of both. The brothers arrived at the nursing homes and began distributing gift cards and gifts among the residents at the facility. Instructions and a group prayer were given prior to going inside to deliver the gifts to every resident at the nursing homes. These facilities each hold approximately 50 residents. The brothers shared laughter and smiles with the staff and residents of both nursing homes. The visit was special as the brothers got an opportunity to enjoy conversation, fellowshiping and singing. The brothers broke into several hymns as they walked up and down the hallways. “Shine on Me” and “This Little Light of Mine” were favorites of the residents. The brothers periodically visit both nursing homes throughout the year to put a smile on residents’ faces. “Coming together to serve our community brings out the best in all of us”, said PM Taurus Sharp. SW Keith Daniel said, “It’s a good feeling to be able to give back to our community”. The brothers ended their visit just like they started, with a group prayer, led by lodge Chaplain PM Taurus Sharp.



Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Lays Wreaths for Fallen Heroes

On Saturday, December 16, members of Phoenix Lodge No 428 participated in the national “Wreaths Across America” by volunteering to sponsor wreaths and lay wreaths on the headstones at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery to pay homage to the fallen brothers. The event is held annually at over 1000 cemeteries in all 50 states and national cemeteries abroad. This year’s theme was “Remember, Honor and Teach”. The purpose of the occasion is not to decorate headstones with beautiful decorated wreaths but to honor and remember our fallen heroes and their lives. The event brought groups from various organizations to assist in the laying of the wreaths on the headstones. Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery is one of the largest national cemeteries in Alabama. Throughout the year, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 partners with the national cemetery to honor fallen heroes and their families. Whether it is honoring veterans for Veterans Day, or remembering those that have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice during Memorial Day ceremonies, or laying wreaths on the headstones for our fallen heroes, 428 brothers can be relied upon to volunteer and serve. 428 has a strong presence of veterans in the lodge and members who have a strong connection with veteran family members. “Coming to volunteer at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery is very special and something I hope our lodge members will continue to do”, stated PM Carlton Jones, “it gives us an opportunity to pay our respect to service members who served and to our own lodge’s fallen heroes”. In the past four years, 428 has performed the last masonic rites for two of its own lodge members at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery. Phoenix Lodge No. 428’s continued commitment to serve its community embodies the spirit of the adage, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”. Well done Brothers!



Contributor - RW Carlton Jones (No. 428)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Archive Lodge No. 75 Hosts Widows Holiday Banquet

On December 10, 2017, Archive Lodge No. 75 hosted their Annual Widows of Archive Lodge No. 75 Holiday Banquet. This year's banquet was held at the Olive Garden Restaurant, located at 7701 Crestwood Blvd, Birmingham AL. Invitations were sent out to all of our past brother's wives and families. Other guests included the members of Royal Queen Chapter No. 126, OES. During the dinner and fine fellowship, guests were provided with information from local community activists on benefits to enhance their everyday lives. Door prizes given at the banquet and monetary gifts were presented to widows who were unable to attend.



Contributor- RW Godfrey Johnson (No. 75)

JCCEO Receives Christmas Toys from Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624



Contributor – PM Charles Motley (No. 624)

On December 14, 2017, Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 donated toys to the students at the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO) Head Start Program. Senior Warden Daniel Everson and Past Master Charles Motley delivered the toys to 110 boys and 105 girls. The JCCEO is a pre-K Head Start Program based in the Birmingham area that serves the local three to five-year-old children. They provide basic education in Math, Reading, and English. The JCCEO Head Start Program receives 80% of the funds necessary to operate its program from the Federal government. The other 20% must come from the community in the form of "In-Kind" or "Volunteer" services, other materials and financial contributions to the program.

Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 Serves at the Men of Distinction Program

On December 3, 2017, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 served at the 17th Annual Salute to Men of Distinction Awards Program of the Metro Birmingham N.A.A.C.P. Chapter. Brother Kenneth Prevo was the liaison between Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 and the N.A.A.C.P. Pride of North Birmingham also served during the Annual Wonderful Outstanding Women program recognizing some of Jefferson County's most influential and amazing women that make outstanding contributions. "It was an absolute honor and pleasure to help serve the N.A.A.C.P. tonight with their 17th Annual Salute to Men of Distinction Award," said Brother Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr.



Members of Pride of North Birmingham #319 and St. John #57 serving at the 17th Annual Salute to Men of Distinction Awards Program.



WM Rev. Timothy Sanford and family celebrate his N.A.A.C.P. Men of Distinction Award

Pride of North Birmingham would also like to congratulate W.M. Rev. Timothy Sanford who was one of the 2017 Men of Distinction Award recipients for his "Outstanding Contributions in Community Service."

Pride of North Birmingham Celebrates Thanksgiving 2017

On November 23, 2017, Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 gathered in downtown Birmingham at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Temple to provide Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. Since 2006, the lodge has gathered annually to provide food, clothing, blankets and shoes to individuals and families attending the Thanksgiving Day event.

Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 would like to thank Grandmaster Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. Esq. and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for their continued support of the lodges of District 14 and OES chapters from District 15 and 19 that participated in this year's event. Special thanks to WM Keith Jacobs, No. 57, for his DJ service and creating a good atmosphere for the day. Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 would also like to give a special thanks to Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Jory's Journey, and Warmth for the Winter for their assistance in making this year's event a success.



Lodge No. 319 and members of the OES family preparing meals on Thanksgiving Day 2017

Contributor- WM Rev. Timothy Sanford (No. 319)

Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630, Blessed to be a Blessing

On November 18, 2017, the brothers of Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 took on their Annual Thanksgiving Charity for 2017. This project, which began three years ago, was established to make sure that five families in the surrounding area have a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The brothers purchased everything needed to have a full Thanksgiving dinner. The meals were delivered to the five families on November 21, 2017. This project continues to be a blessing in the community and to the brothers who make it all possible. This year's project was led by Brother Morris Fletcher, Junior Warden and Brother Richard King, Senior Warden.



Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 Christmas charity was in partnership with South Shelby Baptist Learning Center. They filled backpacks for foster children. South Shelby Baptist Learning Center provided the backpacks and the wish list for each child. The brothers of Pride of Jemison Clanton Lodge No. 630 selected two children off the tree and purchased the items that were requested to go inside the backpacks. All items were delivered on December 1, 2017, so that they could be packed and given to the foster children. The two foster children that were

blessed were a baby girl between newborn to 6 months old and a little boy between 3-4 years old. This was the first time the lodge partnered with the learning center, but it will not be the last. The lodge's goal is to continue to be a blessing in its community throughout the year and especially during to the holiday season. This project was chaired by Brother Rev. Kenneth Rhodes and Past Master Rev. James C. Neal.



Contributor— WM Antoine Head (No. 630)

Geometry Lodge No. 410 Presents Nathaniel Moten Membership Award

On October 26, 2017, Bro. Thurman Murrell, John Dudley, Kenneth Ware, Michael Bell and Ricky Abercrombie were all awarded the Nathaniel Moten Membership Award for their outstanding dedication, commitment and contributions to Geometry Lodge 410. Because of their efforts, these brothers have proven themselves worthy of receiving this distinguished award. The awards were given by WM Curtis Nelson, assisted by RW Charles Motley. In 2017, Geometry 410 created the Nathaniel Moten Membership Award for members who volunteer their time and money to help Geometry 410 define greatness. When the members of Geometry 410 define their lodge's greatness, they look to the leaders that cleared the path for them to achieve greatness. Brother Nathaniel Moten was that leader for Geometry 410. Brother Moten was over 100 years of age and had more than 65 years of selfless Masonic service when he passed away in May of 2015. He was also a MWPHGL of Alabama Hall of Fame Inductee.

Geometry Lodge No. 410 Brings Christmas Joy

During the weeks of December 10 thru 23rd, Geometry Lodge 410 in conjunction with Dollar General collaborated to bring Christmas joy to underprivileged families in the Tarrant City Community during the Christmas season. Since 2009, Geometry 410 and Dollar General in Tarrant City have provided over \$40,000 in toys for underprivileged families in the Tarrant City Community. For almost ten years they have kept their promise and accomplished their goal. In 2017, Geometry 410 provided toys to over 100 underprivileged families, serving as Santa's Masonic Elves. This was a very enjoyable event and gets better every year.

Contributor – WM Curtis Nelson (No. 410)



REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

District No. 17, Training is the Key to Success

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, District No. 17 brought together its Worshipful Master Councils from the Northeast and Northwest Regions to conduct its Mid-Year Joint Worshipful Masters Council Workshop in Decatur, AL. Prior to the workshop Deputy Johnson solicited the Worshipful Masters for topics they would like to have covered during the training session. As a result, the Worshipful Masters in attendance were provided information regarding properly processing Grand Lodge reports, the reinstatement and demit process, conducting an audit, and developing a lodge budget. The presenters during the workshop included Grand District Deputy Johnson, PM Herman Glover, PM George Ball, and a lecture from PM Royce Brister (Honorary Past Grand Master, Oklahoma Jurisdiction). The information was well received by the Worshipful Masters and Deputy Johnson emphasized the fact that they needed to go back to their respective lodges and utilize the information that was provided. The workshop not only provided an opportunity for the Worshipful Masters to receive training but it also allowed them to have an open dialogue about things going on within the district or the jurisdiction as a whole. Immediately following the workshop, the Worshipful Masters were able to fellowship while partaking in a nice lunch before departing.



Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Supports Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen

During the month of October 2017, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 collected can goods ranging from 6lbs-7oz to 8lbs-4oz consisting of Pinto Beans, Black-Eyed Peas, Green Beans and Turnip Greens to support the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store. At the request of the administration, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 donated these items to prepare them for the Thanksgiving Holiday in November. On October 26th members of lodge delivered 107 canned good items to the Rose Sharon Soup Kitchen. The supervisor stated that this was one of the largest donations by an organization during his employment at the facility. And he has worked there for 8 years.

Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store is a non-profit, non-denominational ministry to the homeless and needy in Huntsville and surrounding Northern Alabama. They serve two meals daily, Monday through Friday. Also, they offer clothing assistance to those in need. Rose of Sharon has been serving our community for more than 13 years and relies solely on the community for resources to continue this service to others.



(Top Right): Bro. Barrington Dames, Bro. Gerod Ferrell, Bro. Mark Debro, WM Larry Tisdale, Bro. Marvin Hughes and Facility Supervisor.

(Bottom Right): Facility Volunteer, Bro. Gerod Ferrell, Bro. Mark Debro, Facility Supervisor and Bro. Barrington Dames.

(Bottom Left): Bro. Barrington Dames, Bro. Marvin Hughes and Bro. Mark Debro.



Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Supports Christmas Charities Year Round

On Saturday, December 16th, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES executed a joint venture in providing new toys and slightly used clothing for the winter to Christmas Charities Year Round. This is a United Way supported institution that has serviced the Tennessee Valley area for over 50 years. Other than supporting families and individuals during the holiday season, they provide clothing and furniture for the homeless, house fire victims, natural disaster victims, etc. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES combined, were able to donate over 70 new toys and over 100 items of clothing. Christmas Charities Year Round welcomes donations throughout the year. If you would like to donate please call 256-837-2373 and they will schedule a pick up or you can drop off your donations at 2840 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL 35816.

Contributor – WM Larry D. Tisdale (No. 50)



George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28 Helps During the Christmas Season

God works in mysterious ways and you never know who he will put in a person's life at some of the most critical moments. Susan Shelton, sister of Brother Milton Shelton of George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28 was caring enough to have opened the doors of her home to a homeless mother and offered her shelter and guidance during a pivotal point of her life. The Lodge decided to assist this young mother further by providing items for her newborn child, along with a Walmart gift card to make further purchases for her child. The Lodge also provided a complete Christmas dinner to top the holiday season.

Contributor – PM Xavier Engram (No. 28)

Eagle Lodge No. 97 Donates to Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On November 18, 2017, the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97, in New Market, AL partnered with Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for their Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The brothers donated ten turkeys for the event, as well as, Senior Warden Willie Smith volunteering to participate in the serving. This outreach for the community of New Market provided residents a meal, fellowship and encouragement, as well as, affording the brothers of Eagle Lodge No. 97 the opportunity to give back and show their commitment of service. The event was a success and the lodge received much praise from the congregation of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church.

Contributor – WM Alfred L. Mathews (No. 97)

Pictured Right, Senior Warden Willie Smith delivering turkeys



Athelstine Lodge No. 71's Food Basket Giveaway

On 20 November, 2017, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 met and assembled their Annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets to present to needy families in the Athens-Limestone County Community. Each Thanksgiving food basket consisted of the normal food to be prepared at Thanksgiving. The baskets were then delivered to the families on December 21st by Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor, Brothers Mansfield Scott, and Chaplain John Irving. The Brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 give thanks to the G.A.O.T.U. for allowing their lodge to be a blessing to their community and each other. For without him nothing is possible but through him all things are possible. "This was the best Thanksgiving food basket anyone could have hoped for. It was beautiful, well prepared with all the food groups for a wholesome Thanksgiving meal. "I truly thank the Brothers of Athelstine Lodge No.71 for their kind generosity over this Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend", stated Miss Velma Lowery of Athens, AL.

On December 19th, the brothers also met and assembled their Annual Christmas food baskets to present to needy families in the Athens-Limestone County Community. Each Christmas food basket consists of the normal food to be prepared at Christmas. Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor, Brother Mansfield Scott and Brother John Irving delivered baskets to the families. Those families were very grateful. The Brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 gives thanks to Deity for allowing their lodge to be a blessing to their community and to fellowship with one another during the season of giving.

Contributor – WM Buford Thomas (No. 71)



(Top Left): Members of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 assembling Thanksgiving food baskets



(Top Right): PM Johnny Pryor delivering Thanksgiving food baskets



(Bottom Left): Members of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 assembling Christmas food baskets



(Bottom Right): PM Johnny Pryor and Brother Mansfield Scott delivering Christmas food baskets

Temple Lodge No. 98 Volunteers for the Miracle League of North Alabama

On October 3, 2017, Temple Lodge No. 98 and Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES volunteered for the North Alabama Miracle League to assist out with their weekly kids' baseball game. Temple Lodge volunteered its time by acting as "buddies" (the League's term for their on-field volunteers) for the game while Twilight Chapter No. 788 contributed by cooking hot dogs, burgers, and fries, as well as, serving popcorn and drinks.

The kids who played the game were very enthusiastic! The members of Temple Lodge No. 98 enjoyed getting to know the kids they were paired with. Parents expressed their gratitude for Temple Lodge and Twilight Chapter coming out to support the children. After the game was over, the lodge took pictures with the group. Temple Lodge and Twilight Chapter definitely intend to volunteer again next season.

The North Alabama Miracle League was founded in 1998, and has created an environment for kids with disabilities to participate and enjoy America's greatest pastime, baseball. The league has been featured on national television on NBC, ABC, Fox, CNN, and MSNBC. Presently, there are 275 Miracle League Organizations across the county and in Puerto Rico. The league serves over 200,000 children and young adults with disabilities.

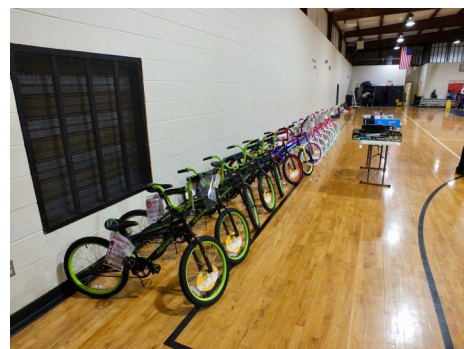


Temple Lodge No. 98's Toy Drive

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

The holidays are that special time of year when mankind gets to express their giving nature more than any other time. For instance, co-workers at your job might fundraise for worthy causes; volunteers outside of stores may ask for donations to help the less fortunate, and people are generally in the Christmas spirit of giving. Therefore, Temple Lodge No. 98 felt the holiday spirit move throughout the brotherhood and decided to give back to a specific area in the Huntsville community.



The bikes and toys arranged for the kids

Their newest member, Bro. Antonio McGinnis, grew up in the Sparkman/Holmes area and made a suggestion that the lodge participate in the toy drive that the Boys & Girls Club does every year for the neighborhood. He challenged the lodge members to not only donate toys but also supply bikes to the children, as well. Temple Lodge picked the Sparkman/Holmes Boys & Girls Club of Huntsville AL in conjunction with the Huntsville Housing Authority and got in contact with Unit Director Peter Miller to coordinate their participation in the toy drive.

Temple Lodge No. 98 donated seven girl's bikes and seven boy's bikes for ages 6-12. The lodge also donated an additional \$300 worth of toys. In addition to the bike, each boy received a basketball and each girl received a special gift provided by Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES.

To see the children's faces when they received those gifts really put a smile on everyone's faces, as well as, joy in their hearts. The children were very appreciative of the gifts, and Temple Lodge No. 98 was proud to be a blessing to the community.

Contributor – Bro. Malcolm Jessup, Jr. (No. 98)



Temple Lodge No. 98 along with Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES pose with the kids of the Boys & Girls Club

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. The *Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (hjeromeglover@yahoo.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 April 2018.** These articles should include events from **January 2018—March 2018**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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